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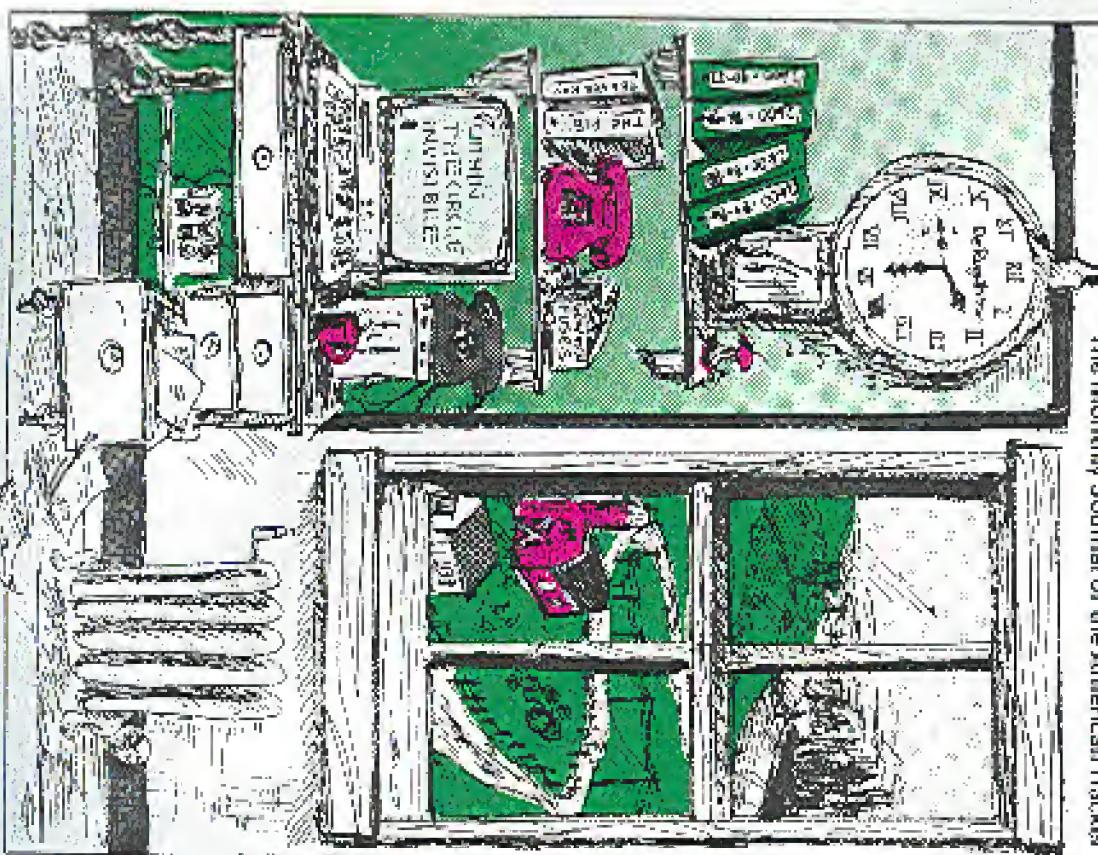
2600

Volume 4, Number 2

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The Monthly Journal of the American Hacker



2600 Magazine
PO Box 752
Middle Island, NY 11953 U.S.A.

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- Data that can be a good reference
- Muds of computer networks
- Analysis of new legislation

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- You to continue to send your comments and questions
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- You to help keep us informed

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We've been swamped with mail from people who either wanted to renew at the old rate or who wanted to comment on our new style. Please forgive us if we seem to take a little longer to process your particular request—this avalanche far outweighed our wildest dreams.

This probably means we're doing quite well, but it's always hard to be conclusive. Our experiments with several newsstands across the country appears to be succeeding as well, and we hope to have a distributor before long. Before long, 2600 will be a household word. Look for a list of newsstands we can be found at in a future issue.

This month we're happy to present an exclusive interview with one of Britain's most notorious hackers, Hugo Cornwell. It's one of many we're presenting and we think there's a lot to be learned from

his observations.

We've also got an article on COSMOS that many readers will no doubt fail to understand entirely. This has always been a problem for us here as we must constantly try to please both the beginners and the advanced hackers among us. One thing we believe everyone can get out of this article is a realization of all of the different ways your phone service can be categorized and how easy it is to change this with a simple stroke of the keyboard. It might tell some insight as to why you didn't get what you asked for or perhaps how you managed to wind up with a prison phone line.

Privacy and computers are incredible and the two together can be quite scary. The purpose of our magazine is to show you what's going on with both—in as many ways as possible.

AN INTERVIEW WITH HUGO

CORNWALL

a British hacker/author

Where did you get your glass bottom?
by John Banks

It was actually derived over a rather union lunch with the publisher. All that I had decided that it was to be a pseudonym, but will explain genesis. Originally it was going to be Hugo Cromwell with an 'E' rather than an 'A', because Hugo Cromwell is the real name of John LeCarre, a spy writer who I rather admire – he's also got a number of talented brothers and sisters. So the original thought was that I was going to be, in order to mislead the public, yet another member of a very literate family.

But at the time a number of the Elite hackers were operating under the name Parsons, a Sufi teacher, Forester which had originally been called The Prince of Persia but for fairly obvious reasons. So Parsons is in Cornwall so that's how it came about. So we decided to call him Cromwell with an 'A' and Hugo was chosen as a Christian name simply because I think it is one of those less likely names I can possibly reuse.

these parts of the radio spectrum that are not basically well advertised. In most countries in the world, western world, you can buy books that tell you about all the various services etc. You can't in this country or you couldn't until very recently and I say [it] was quite fun trying to work out the pattern of the allocation of the frequencies and then using radio scanners [to] actually sweep down on them. You know although some of the stuff is now more widely known, there is still a lot of the stuff that isn't known. There are a lot of people in this country who are really rather good at it. How do the laws in the U.S. versus the U.S. promote this type of investigation? Now do they encourage it? Well they discourage it really. It is done in two ways. First of all there is a lot less published in this country. We have got much tougher about what we publish. We don't have a Freedom of Information act. Anything that is generated by the government is deemed to be secret unless it has been specifically released for publication so there

...
In my opinion the situation was better for there as it was
valuable to "see out our components and then go on with
recruiting". I don't know that this is
describing disappeared. I don't know that this is
true. When did anything very much differ? That is to say,
when did [the cockpit] and until the passengers' reactions
not necessarily that things were getting a little bit
hot, and they [anticipates] trouble and removed them
so fast that they could show that they were being
responsible. I think this is how it happened. But this
isn't ever going to stop them from removing them
from the plane. You know there are batches of British
Tobacco's staff as well right now so you know he
tried to issue him with a right amount of information
within a risk tolerance limit, although I don't believe
there is reason to believe that some of the British Tobacco's
Security people were not impressed about the break
because it really concerns a bit more strict about the
use of passengers.

The passenger relationship is also important because a few
of the people were actually sold others to participate

Not very deliberately. I got into computer hacking computers probably very early round about '78 and just got very curious about what was going on in big companies and how to drop in and mess around and see what was going on. I was particularly interested in Intel and I never thought that it particularly as anything or illegal but I placed up a phone number or a password then I simply carried on collecting it. I ended up with a few sheets full of these things and I would pass them around to friends and so on, currently and it wasn't really until '82 or '83 that I became aware that there were not just other people collecting [to a similar sort of way] but there was a proper culture [of it], like hacking and I said, 'OK well I suppose I am a hacker.'

these parts of the radio spectrum that are not being well serviced. In most countries in the world, western world, you can buy books that tell you about all the various services [sic]. You can't in this country or you couldn't until very recently and I say [sic] it was great fun trying to work out the pattern of the allocation of the frequency bands and then using radio scanners [to] actually eavesdrop on them. You know, although some of the stuff is now more widely known, there is a lot of the stuff that isn't known. There are a bunch of people in this country who are really rather good at it.

How do the laws in the U.K. versus the U.S. encourage this type of investigation?

Now do they encourage it? Well they discourage it really. It's done in two ways. First of all there is a lot less published in this country. We have got much tougher about what we publish. We don't have a Freedom of Information act. Anything that is generated by the government is deemed to be secret unless [it] has been specifically released for publication so there is a host of a lot less information that is openly available. So there is that one aspect. The other aspect is that a lot of our laws are all enveloping in theory though they're widely ignored in practice. There is a contrast to the United States in particular. I know a lot about Canada and that is if you look specifically at hacking there is no specific anti-hacking legislation. You can be done for stealing computer time if you break into someone's computer, stealing electricity sometimes, and recently they have done to people for forgery which is basically using passcodes to which they are not entitled and that case is going to appeal.

What was your motivation for writing "The Hacker's Handbook"?

but since there was no opportunity and I had nothing to teach about the synopsis. I thought, well why not? I'd had it. I was very glad during those three days, so I went ahead and did it... What has been my job? Well, it's to do what you asked me to do, to write a synopsis of your book?

There was a great deal of interest—the book was in the news for several weeks on the Sunday Times Best Seller List—and as a result it was competing with other pretty popular things like *The Da Vinci Code*, which was very popular largely because of the盖蒂博物馆
Sealby Squad at Scotland Yard [and] used the same cover. The man hadn't read the book but said it was sufficient for her to be able to hear the story "was Condeles back again?"—the immediately right title book appears very important, interesting, very serious, art for art's sake. I took a call like this, and it was funny trying to write the whole thing with a real dry eye or unengaged.

These people who knew nothing about hacking depicted it as a very interesting book and never thought that it would do for it obviously excited a lot of other interest. I think people wanted the book for themselves—they badly wanted a book about hacking, they wanted to make hackers into some sort of modern myth and my book happened to be among it, capture all of that interest. Though there was a very small deal of kick in it.

One of the effects of the Scotland Yard consideration is that the books that hadn't been published yet will now be published very quickly, very small, cheapened very rapidly from the bookshops and it created a further myth that the books had been banned in some way so everyone was rushing to get them off the shelf and I should add that a few

values to his own computer hobby and that is probably why he was here for three days. I was very disappointed. I didn't know that British Telecom did anything very much other than its normal corporate [telecommunications] trouble and removals. So I thought they could show that they were being responsible. I think that is the way it happened. Because there was quite little official response at that time to the book. But you know there are loads of British Telecom's staff as well might expect so you know I think to argue to my best knowledge a lot of people within British Telecom [had] been engaged [in] that reason to believe that some of the British Telecom's security people were not impressed about the book because it reads something a bit more strict about use of passwords.

There are two reasons why I give that quote now, of the book were actually sold other to computer security people or sold by them to. If yes like, again customer's insistence to say "Look here, isn't it all right? Can we have this book and be aware?" How could you say that U.K. hackers would be different from U.S. hackers?

I think that the difference is of subtlety rather than of essence. There are two areas of difference. First of all, perhaps the mentality of U.K. people. U.K. computer enthusiasts, that have probably probably acquired them about two or three years after the majority of U.S. enthusiasts.

That's really a question of how modern are they. When I first got interested in computers, the only publications that were available were from British Telecom. You couldn't buy them in the bookstores in the U.K. and you had to buy them on internet and there were

way, and you can't do that unless you do just what other interests had been doing the same year? I guess I never was interested in what call in the book—the larger area of both phrasings. In other words, making technology transparent in the most possible way. I got interested in that when I was a

very very easy. The thing I have found most useful was a shake by interest and a publisher by profession - write (or email) a note on a bulletin board saying does anyone want to write a book on *xxxxxxxx* and I ample back off very quickly. Email: sjw001@psu.edu

books when he became the first recorded copyist who, in his preface, said that he had written these people's books. He says they lettered it but [was] really going to translate it.

very expensive. If you do it from youreller had fairly
direct ones, ones that had been modified from U.S. use
and that was only [illegible] use of you had these very
expensive ones which were requisitioned with British
Telecom.

undergraduate at Oxford and everyone I knew was interested in phone phreaking and their in fact one of the best phone phreakers was one of the dobs and is still the primitive sort of phone system that operated there you can see what I mean.

"I'm serious, I can't be rare. He wrote back, said I don't know, call me back and we will have a chat about it. I rang up, catalogued all the obvious things, why all the obvious answers wouldn't be useful and he sort of...
I think he was trying to say that he had a real problem with me."

British and the newspaper reporters decided that enough of these people who were so there were headlines saying 'Harold Holt has deserted' and this was like the second again it wasn't true but it all helped Holt. I have no specific notes on a disappearance and I do care to add

So you got this boy or three year gap). The second stage I think is then gain strength it seems like us as far as British orchestras; their big disaster they failed this was going to the Proms which is a competition that's been going on for 150 years now. The moment that became obvious

I certainly got interested in what the CIA was doing in Vietnam. I mean, I was reading about it in the press, and I was reading about the Central Intelligence Agency's secret bunker building. In other words, trying to find out secret sites used by the government and also by the U.S. government. There was [merely] a political motive in that but it was really rather a lot of

could be done. I would like to receive 3 within 24 hours, 24 hours afterwards, he said, it was terrible, would I mind waiting two or three days till he had his editorial meeting, but he wanted to do the book and at the end of all that, you know, within one week, beginning of the

I have been quite interested recently in the book market. I purchased the book *Spill* as soon as it was published and I feel a little bit apologetic, as it's a serious blunder in sort of getting later. In the first book you had a schematic for the Black Sox in the baseball it wasn't there. When were the Chicago

I got interested also in the brief illegal culture because I seen things there was going on in this country. I got a radio antenna license and I actually was interested in listening to the radio.

week I began to think about writing the book. I didn't know if it would be a success or not, but I thought of writing my book as a fact and at the end of the week I really had a contract.

Trilateral response to the book and how did it influence you in a sense?

300-300. I suppose that American Indians would call it The Source or into a BBS. After President had been buried for a day there in the early eighties you'd often see people in the BBS rooms talking about

the telecom informer

BY DAN FOLEY

Cellular Phreaking

The future hinted in the December issue of 2600 is already here. Cellular fraud is becoming a concern of the CPCs (Cellular Phone Companies). Much fraud is from the same old sources—the theft of cellular phones or even the entire car, resulting with the new "owner" making calls on the victim's cellular ID (and phone bill).

Another form of fraud is from rovers (cellular users) using their phones in a different city from where they signed up; who don't bother to let the CPC in the new city know their billing info.

Roaming will become more prevalent as more people buy cellular phones and use them while they travel. However this form of fraud will soon become a thing of the past, as the CPC's are creating a national billing and clearinghouse which will ensure that bills will reach the right user. This clearinghouse will also (further in the future) allow someone to call a cellular telephone, and the call will be correctly routed to wherever in the United States the phone happens to be.

Or more interesting to the readers of 2600 is something that is quickly growing and represents the most dangerous threat to CPC billing. Spoofing another cellular user's ID isn't as hard as it sounds. Some of the more exotic schemes involve reading cellular ID's off of the airwaves as calls are being placed. Most CPC's don't even bother to encrypt the ID signals (and you don't even need to decrypt if the encryption algorithm doesn't include time and date stamping). But there is even a simpler method than using an "ether" box (so called because the box searches IDs out of the ether?).

The easiest method by far needs the complicity of a cellular phone repair or installation shop. For many brands of phone the cellular ID is not in a ROM like "they" tell you, but instead is programmable. Motorola, for one, is supposed to have easy-to-follow

instructions on programming their phone's cellular ID's inside the repair manual. And even if the ID is encoded in a ROM, you can just burn a copy.

Rumor has it that cellular ROMs are already available on the black market. Perfect for your last terrorist in cell in death threats and be unreachable, as the authorities would accuse the wrong person.

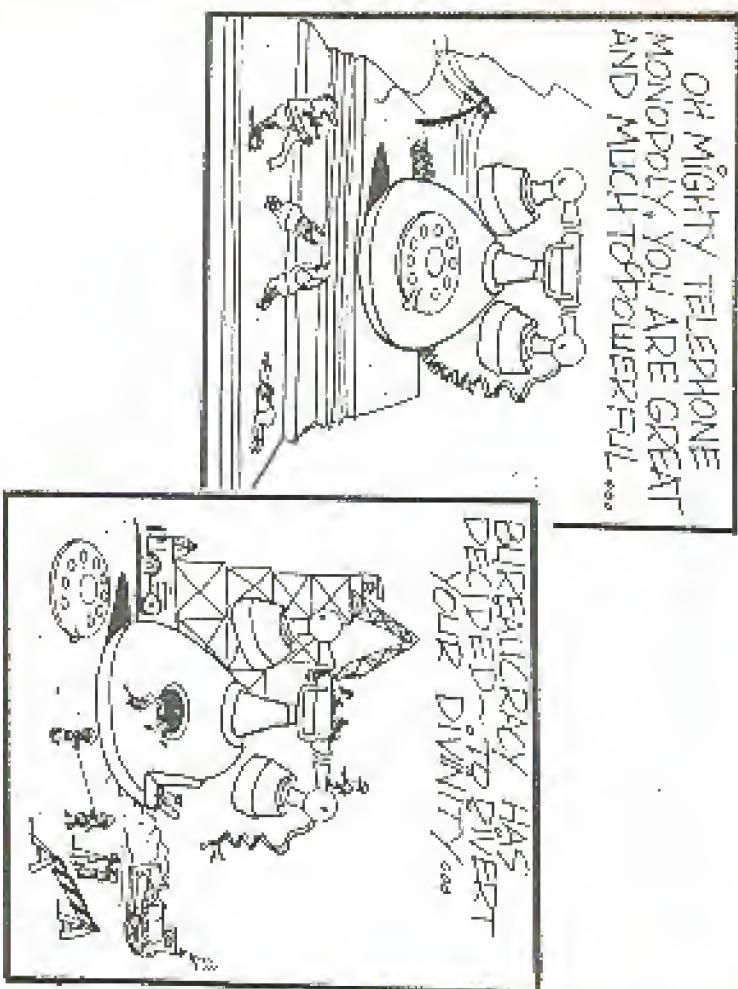
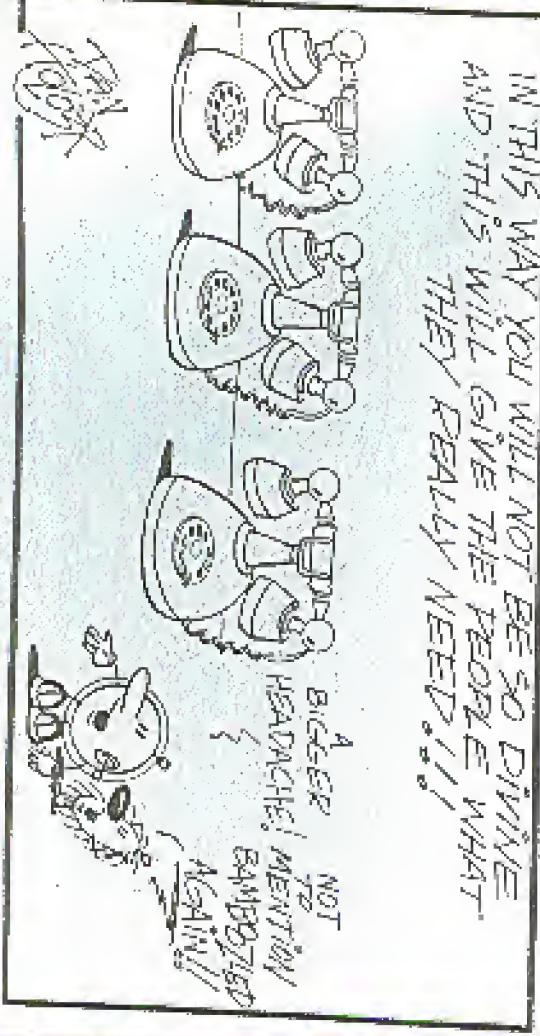
The Largest Cellular Companies

The largest cellular system in the world encompasses almost the entire Gulf of Mexico. On July 15, Coast (sic) Communications began serving Freeport, Brownsville, Texas in Mobile, Alabama, with a switching office in Lafayette, Louisiana, and cell sites on offshore platforms out to about 160 miles from the coast. Coastal plans to target the oil business, fishing and other commercial marine operations. Average averages \$1.00 a minute, rather expensive, but they do provide a specialized service. Cellular rates average about 60 cents at minute peak.

The largest cellular telephone company is now Southwestern Bell Corp. It bought out Metromedia's newswireline rights for \$1.65 billion. The FCC originally broke the cellular frequencies into three bands, giving one to the local telephone company (the wireless carrier), one to a non-telephone carrier, and saved one for the future. However the distinction has become academic as major RBOCs (Regional Bell Operating Companies) purchase cellular rights in other cities (with our local phone revenues we subsidize their investment in real estate, manufacturing and all sorts of things having nothing to do with our dial tone). Southwestern Bell now competes against Nynex in Boston and New York, Bell Atlantic in Philadelphia and Baltimore, Washington, and Ameritech in Chicago and Dallas. It also got about \$160,000 paying customers in sixteen cities. The West also competes against a fellow

ON MIGHTY TELEPHONE
MONOPOLY, YOU ARE GREAT
AND MUCH TO POWERFUL...

BURKE RICKY HAS
DECIDED TO DIVERT
YOUR DIVINITY...





Nasty Business

By J. G. Green
13th Floor, Rock
Admiralty, New York
NY 10020

February 8, 1987

To RCI Customer:

As RCI continues to grow and expand its long distance services, we have become susceptible to a problem facing all long distance companies. Toll Free .. or making long distance calls in another individual's location .. is an inherent problem that has been increasing steadily.

We are required since Bell Prod. and are adding 3-digit personal authentication numbers (PIN) to help prevent abuse on our customers' lines. Similar to a bank pin code, these numbers will be assigned to lines that PIN code following their activation you have signed this agreement.

Within the next several weeks, you will receive your personal identification number and dialing instructions. We will also tell you on what date you should begin using your code.

US SPRINT
Sprint Services
Dallas TX 75247

E-MAIL

02705746 18120563 1083 125
02/02/86 18:43:37 MTA

Attention: US Sprint Customer

A review of the number of calls made on each customer code is a recent trend in our calling maintenance program. A recent review of our calling maintenance program shows a significant increase in calls as compared to your previous usage.

We were unable to contact you by telephone today to discuss this, and because we were concerned the calls being made on your code were unauthorized, we have suspended the code in question and will issue a new code as soon as you contact our Customer Service Department. Call us toll free at: 1-800-511-4845.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused by this procedure and thank you for your continued business with us, Sprint.

Sincerely,

US Sprint

WE SEEM TO BE GETTING LETTERS LIKE THESE EVERY

**COUPLE OF WEEKS. SOME, LIKE SPRINT, CANT EVEN
GET THE DATE CORRECT:**

CORNWALL

(continued from page 5)

also think that because there were so many videotext services, Prestel had type-UH services to look at. I am interested in the computer networks so it took them a longer to discover PSS and the various university networks like JANET (Joint Academic Network) and things like that.

There is very little difference in because for a slight difference of pronunciation in terms of what they are looking for. As a system, when do you think of Prestel? You could go on and on and on about that. Prestel is extremely interesting as a matter of history. It has various authors, but 18 authors were all born about the year 1975 which was before anyone visualized the home computer as being possible, so Prestel visualizes and defines them. Prestel processing companies via their television sets. Which is why you get a 40 by 24 character display, these have to take graphics, which was a function of the belief that

computers were television sets. Which is why you obviously got video text, Prestel in other words, were self-service and it's no effort to call Prestel or any of the other online services.

I just can't see any electronic publisher saying, "We're going to be publishing electronic books." I don't think it will do, they're trying to make it look like it's going to be publishing a historic curiosity. It's fairly [inexpensive] in one or two frouges, particularly the home type. It's quite useful for 180 having financial data. It will make very, very small investors but it will be relying on its related use base. The way people are using it is via terminals on personal computers. On my personal computer I obviously got video text, Prestel in other words, were self-service and it's no effort to call Prestel or any of

"...this idea that the hacker can somehow fight back. That's the reason why non-hackers admire them so much."

Curiously, the most effective and certainly the most effective way to combat hacking is to make it look like nothing is happening. This is something. In fact, most electronic publishers nowdays publish in a variety of formats.

They publish in an online format, they publish in a videotext format, and of course if their material is suitable they would also be thinking about publishing in a CD ROM type format and anything else that becomes available. It's nearly a formal and obvious decision to publish it well, are there going to be enough people out there to make it worth my while?

That's definitely relatively going to come to nothing. It's a wonderful. In fact, most electronic publishers nowdays publish in a variety of formats, they publish in an online format, they publish in a videotext format, and of course if their material is suitable they would also be thinking about publishing in a CD ROM type format and anything else that becomes available. It's nearly a formal and obvious decision to publish it well, are there going to be enough people out there to make it worth my while?

That's the only real problem, they've got a lot of pressure to get rid of that and that is applied to most other services. You can't afford them because there is always a echo that has to be managed. They did up lines available and then if you can't handle with a personal computer system, clearly, you can't get the services. Other forms are basically available online and you get it via PSS which is the British Telecom equivalent to

it works is that the primary desire to receive a command string from you and it does, the command string is processed in the remote computer, the information is given to you in a separate and does again so on and so forth. Any more slightly more complicated interaction is relatively slow.

You could run an online service with view data as the input and processor, but it looks ridiculous, it behaves in a ridiculous format, so for certain types of services I suppose it's not too bad, it's the sharing a home and budget type of system where everyone is going around in gas never internal connection engines.

Can you see Prestel evolving later what it is now?

I don't think it will do, they're trying to make it look like it's going to be publishing a historic curiosity. It's fairly [inexpensive] in one or two frouges, particularly the home type. It's quite useful for 180 having financial data. It will make very, very small investors but it will be relying on its related use base. The way people are using it is via terminals on personal computers. On my personal computer I obviously got video text, Prestel in other words, were self-service and it's no effort to call Prestel or any of

Some Suggestions

Dear 2600:

I would like to thank you for your superb magazine. It would be a big plus this year if you could: 1) Show people what to do with a blue box now, before its death; 2) Teach how to hack a code with or without a computer like in your May 1986 issue; 3) Put out a list of exchanges like 950-1068 or 950-1033 etc. with the equivalent in 800 numbers and also tell us how many digits for their access code since it appears that some of them have more digits than originally.

I observed in Manhattan some fellows dial 950-1068, enter a valid access code plus a number with the 517, 219, 601, or 505 area code and trunk it with 2600 hertz then KIP 809 XXX-XXX ST and reach their party in Santo Domingo. I wonder whether you could explain how they avoid CIS.

In your May 1986 issue, page 3-B there is an algorithm by Nynex Phreak which was one of the best. It was good for one month as described, but apparently some executive at MCI read that article and in June the message was changed to confuse people but with a little ingenuity you could still back numbers according to the same explained principle. I had kept a list of codes which I used until December 24, 1986 on which day their computer invalidated all my codes. I would greatly like to know how many digits they use in their access code. Enclosed is a self-addressed envelope so that you could provide me with a reply.

The Perpetrator
The Perpetrator
Here's your reply in a different envelope. We wish we had the time to reply personally to all of the letters we get but we simply do not.

We've published lists in the past of 950 numbers and 800 numbers as well. We'll be doing this again shortly.... As far as how many digits are in a

particular company's codes, it would be a full-time job to keep track. Almost everyday some long distance company somewhere changes their code pattern. Some even have more than one pattern. And quite a few have codes of varying lengths. If it's any help, our MCI codes are all five digits and our Sprint codes are nine. Beyond that it starts getting complicated.

We've printed full instructions in the past as to how blue boxes are used. They do still work perfectly from a few locations for a few locations, but they become fewer every day.

Some Numbers

Dear 2600:

Here are some phun numbers to call in the 716 area code:
888-3000 to 688-3010—University of Buffalo (MAX/CYBER)
878-5333 and 878-4611—Buffalo State Computing Service
874-3751—Computer Science
681-8700—BOCES
856-0720—Ticketron Buffalo
836-0000, 837-0000, 850-0000, 854-0000, 855-0000, 856-0000—weird tone.

I don't understand these numbers with weird tones and suffixes of 0000—is there any explanation to this? And does this happen in other area codes? Thanks.

Silver Bandit

Yes, it happens everywhere. Those are probably test numbers from the phone company. Why don't you call one and have it show up on your local bill? Then call the phone company and demand to know who that number belongs to and why it's on your bill. That's the easiest way.

The Perpetrator
The Perpetrator
Here's your reply in a different envelope. We wish we had the time to reply personally to all of the letters we get but we simply do not.

We've published lists in the past of 950 numbers and 800 numbers as well. We'll be doing this again shortly.... As far as how many digits are in a

was the title—"a look at the future phreaking world." Cellular telephone phreaking is not in the future. To my knowledge, cellular telephone phreaking has been going on for about four years, in at least one major metropolitan area. The lack of detailed information on cellular telephone phreaking in this publication has thus far placed 2600 in the dark ages.

Computer assisted blue boxing is still essentially the same as blue boxing in the dark ages of 1951. The same MF tones were used in 1951 and the phreakers were very successful. The advantages of using cellular telephones for phreaking and hacking instead of using land lines is outstanding. Cellular phones are the most immune to tracing even if used from a fixed location and it is virtually impossible to be nailed if you use one for short duration or while you are travelling on a highway.

You mentioned in the article that for detail into you should consult E&A Standard CIS 3-A. This publication has been outdated and has been replaced with IS7-C. Everyone interested in using cellular phones to their full potential should order all the publications on the subject from E&A.

2001 1 Street NW Washington, DC 20006, or you can call them at 202-457-4900.

The New Age Phreaker

We have yet to hear from a group of cellular phreakers, though we don't doubt they exist. By the way, have the newspapers among us begun saying cell's ver?

ANI Trouble

Dear 2600:

The man who asked the question in the "Letter You Wrote" page, in the November issue, signed "Frustrated in Miami" regarding his ANI, evidently didn't read the Miami newspapers.

Letters

Some time ago, a school administrator named Johnny Jones was accused of stealing school funds. Unknown to him his telephone had been tapped.

Heres' newspaper.

"Why, you may have wondered, did Johnny Jones continue to call his friend in Maryland despite the suspicion that his phone was tapped? Because, transcripts of those conversations disclose, Jones believed he had a secret number that told him whether his phone was tapped. Jones mentioned the number in almost every conversation with his friend and explained that if you call the number, your phone is clean. If you call and get a busy signal, your phone is tapped.

"Wrong. That's a test number for telephone installers. When they go out, installers have to hook up a lot of wires, and that number is a final checkpoint to see if they've got the right ones connected." The spokesman says the phone company has lots of test numbers and a rumor for almost every one. As for the number Jones called, if you call it and get a busy signal, it simply means the line is busy, not that your phone is tapped."

The number, incidentally, isn't located in some supersecret vault in Langley, VA. It's in an electronic switching station off Route 20 in South Dade, OK, OK. Call 1-200-666 6763.

If you have a letter to send to us, feel free to write. Don't ramble on for too long or we'll have to chop bits out. The address to write to is 2600 Letters Editor, P.O. Box 99, Middle Island, NY 11953.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

They've done it again. Our phone company has figured out a way to make a profit out of absolutely nothing. While we must connect them for their ever-present telephone, we must also point out that this is indeed the very last straw.

We all know how unjustified the charge for touch-tone service is. Touch tones make phone equipment operate a lot faster, yet people can't look into thinking they're getting "access" to some kind of premium service. But the fact is that we all have access in the first place and the only way the phone company can charge this is to invent a machine that makes your touch tones useless if you haven't paid. That's why touch tones work regardless of whether or not you pay for them on older phone systems. They're not sophisticated enough to operate that horrible machine. Remember—you're not actually paying for the service— you're paying for not being disconnected from the service.

The newest ripoff is a feature called "gold numbers." Do you remember the days when you could get a phone instead of and ask if you could get a particular number? If the number was available, you'd be able to get it in most cases. Just like that. Well, you can kiss those days goodbye.

"For less than a quarter a day," the cheery little New York Telephone pamphlet says, "you could have a number that is easy to remember because of repeating in sequential digits. Or you might select any available 7-digit combination of numbers to suit your needs, perhaps trying for a number that translates into a word or phrase."

Isn't this brilliant? As if nobody had ever thought of selecting their own phone number before! And, since they were smart enough to come up with the idea, they've naturally carried the right to charge us \$3.40/month for one of these numbers or \$6.80/month for business customers. Maintenance charges, no

doubt.

That's not enough! OK, here's some more. If the first three numbers you ask for aren't available (which doesn't necessarily mean they're being used), guess what happens? "A fee of \$20 will apply for each 3-number search beyond the initial one." Twenty dollars just to apply for a number! And there's no guarantee you'll even get it! It could go on forever!

Obviously, the phone company is going to clean up on this if people are foolish enough to fall for it. One right after the other, we're seeing services that have always been free develop charges. While some changes in service are necessary because of the disservice, this is certainly not one of them. It's time some nasty letters were written to our elected officials who have the power to do something about it.

Gold numbers, indeed. Would anyone care to speculate on what they're going to try next?

Meanwhile, there's an entirely new service that has sprung into being overnight. It's called PRS and it's being used by Mountain Bell and Pacific Bell. PRS stands for Personal Response System and means exactly the opposite: directory assistance operator for those regions. The voice you hear saying, "Can I help you?" or "What city, please?" is actually a recording! Each operator records their own "voicing" and it plays when they pick up. This, according to the company, gives the operator some time to rest between calls. In fact, they like to refer to it as "the Pause that Refreshes and Satisfies." They say the customers just love it because the recording sounds so friendly and upbeat.

Give me a break! It's just another way of turning those poor operators into machines. There's already a recording that gives the number, now there's one that picks up the phone! What's left?

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and must be designed to prevent replacement by the Antifraud." These due lootingings are interspersed throughout the book, complete with references to Big Brother. Williams also dislikes the banks and their rapacious enterprises. He claims it is in the banks' best interests to suppress stories of ATM fraud losses. ATM transaction costs, are much less than those dealing with live human tellers. In addition, Williams claims that once banks have gotten the public to peer using ATMs, they will raise charges to the customer for ATM transactions. He also warns against the "immense risks to our freedom and privacy" as the ATM provides the power. Although these claims certainly make enlightening reading, they detract from the seriousness of the work and make it too easy to dismiss. However, once one gets beyond these ravings one realizes that there actually is some useful information here.

One area where the book excels is the section dealing with preventing oneself from fraud.

Many of the suggestions are common sense, but many people don't even think of using them. Williams is especially concerned about violent crimes

against ATM users by robbers. For example, he suggests that one never withdraws funds between

10 and midnight. As controls can often make two days of maximum withdrawals with your card,

Williams also addresses your legal rights. If a

violent crime occurs within the ATM lobby, you

can probably successfully sue the bank for

improper safety measures. The section on how

many ATM scans work is helpful, as most of

them involve somehow tricking the victim into

revealing his PIN. He also lists several warning

signs of ATM fraud in progress or about to

reappear so one can avoid becoming another

victim. The section on protecting oneself from

fraud perpetrated by bank employees, as well as

more common criminals is indeed valuable. As is

the discussion on UFT laws.

The technical section is interesting, but not

very useful. Williams focuses on the Diebold

ATM, which accounts for about 45% of installed

ATMs, and one wonders if the information is not

of date or only applies to one model. There is a

discussion of several other models as well. He

does offer some useful and interesting

explanations of ATM card/magnetic strip formats,

as well as encryption schemes. This really is the

most interesting and informative part of the

whole booklet, as he in depth discusses PIN

encryption and data formats. The technical

sections on how ATMs and ATM networks

operate is also interesting, although somewhat

analogous.

If you bought the book with the hope of finding

an easy way to break into an ATM machine,

forget it. Most of the methods are sufficiently

vague that you would have to do much more

investigation on the topic anyway (ask for the

rest of us). Many of the physical attack methods

are just the same as for pay phones (or any other

approved object), though surprisingly many ATMs

are only fire resistant, not burglar or tool

resistant, and are very clearly obvious. Many

of the successful methods used in the past are

due to programming mistakes which probably

have been responsible. ATM security seems to be a

rapidly evolving field, and major holes are

patched as soon as they become apparent. The

sociology (in computer related break-in methods)

was especially vague, and much of the material

was too generalized, and could be applied to any

computer crime.

When one comes to the end of the booklet the

wrongs it was worth the cost. Twenty-five

dollars is a lot for the 160 pages (plus a three page

fastback questionnaire) of basically generic

ratings. Each page, however, is two columns of

very small print containing some information of

world, most of which is impossible to find from

any other source. The diagrams aren't terribly

helpful, mainly being cartoon and publicity

shots. Williams often plugs his other books in the

work, as well as America's Private Radio, which

is distracting (admittedly, he also plugs 2600 as

"the best source on phone and computer

phreaking"). This could be a better investment

than the book itself, as the book is not likely

to be of much use to most people. The ratings

were冗长且冗长，但对大多数人来说是没用的。

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